



State of New Jersey

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
PO BOX 345
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0345

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman

JOHN L. HULICK, MS, CPS
Executive Director

Letter to the Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: John Hulick
609-777-0526
John.hulick@treas.state.nj.us

April 23, 2012

To the editor:

Recent news reports have highlighted a police raid and arrests made at a house party involving underage drinking by dozens of Rumson and Fair Haven youth. When coupled with the publication of disturbing survey results of local teen alcohol and drug abuse rates, a powerful wake-up call about the prevalence youth use of alcohol and drugs has been received by residents of these two Monmouth County municipalities.

The situation faced by Rumson and Fair Haven is not unique. Youth substance abuse, especially underage drinking is faced by municipalities throughout New Jersey and is oft-reported.

It is heartening to learn, however, that the response by Rumson and Fair Haven officials has been to join forces to participate in the State's Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse program administered by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. By doing so, they have joined the largest network of anti-drug coalitions in the nation, nearly 400 municipal alliances, which involve thousands of individuals and stakeholders who provide comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention programming in communities throughout New Jersey.

The news reports provide an opportunity to bring much needed focus to the ongoing concern with youth use of alcohol which has dangerous and often life-long consequences particularly for those who start drinking early. Youth who start before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21.

Appearing when they have, these reports also provide an opportunity to highlight that Governor Chris Christie recently proclaimed April 2012 as Alcohol Awareness Month which this year is themed, "Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities: Prevent Underage Drinking." In recognition of the Month, the Council is

posting resources and information about alcohol abuse and alcoholism on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gcada.newjersey, for State residents to access.

The collaboration and efforts to address youth alcohol and drug use by Rumson and Fair Haven officials as well as community leaders deserves praise. The Council encourages New Jersey residents to learn more about substance abuse, underage drinking and the Alliance network by visiting its Facebook page.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Hulick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

John L. Hulick, MS, CPS
Executive Director
Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

